

Dear Friend of Peace and Justice:

When we arrived in Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1992, we had come from Northwestern Wisconsin where we had been active with a small group of justice and peace activists called the Flambeau Valley Peace Coalition (we continued to receive their quarterly "Peace Echo" for some time). It took us some months to get our bearings in Pennsylvania. We did not really find much activism until we heard of a rally on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre featuring Elizabeth McAllister (Phillip Berrigan's wife, now widow) sometime in the mid-90's. Around that same time, the rally's sponsor was observing their fifth "birthday" at a Wilkes University dinner (this became the Annual Spring Dinner).

These two events were our introduction to the "best kept secret in NEPA", the Interfaith Peace and Justice Center (PJC). In the ensuing years, thanks to the PJC, we have been able to join like-minded friends in a variety of activities - tutoring English as a second language and Citizen Preparation classes for newly-arrived refugees and immigrants from Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Mexico, Iran and various former Soviet republics ("thank you" to the late Kim Biggs!) - listening to speakers on topics as diverse as capital punishment, child soldiers, welfare reform, political corruption, prison atrocities, and many more - training in the value of non-violent conflict resolution through mediation - the ins and outs of lobbying our elected representatives, both federal and state.

Probably our greatest reward for participating in PJC activities has been the Inspiration we have received from so many outstanding individuals. We fondly remember the late Father Jim Doyle, CSC, David Frey, Barbara Sabol, Susan Merrill, Bob Witkowski, Maggie Ritz and so many others who have died. The spirit of these departed has continued to up-lift us in the leadership of such as Bev and Wally Williams, Lea and Gottfried Csala, Margarita Rose, David and Vera Walline, Kathy and David Jenkins, Nancy Frey and so many more, too numerous to mention. We are especially encouraged to see a growing number of younger folks taking on the mantle of those who have gone before.

The current Steering Committee of the PJC is a witness to the hope for the future of continued leadership in the cause of Peace and Justice in our community. Without knowing the specifics, it's a pretty good guess that the average age of the current group is in the 30-40 year range! With their ambition and energy, the future of such programs as the Peace Camp for Kids, the Barbara Sabol Memorial Lecture, the Annual Spring Dinner and Awards program, and the Father Jim Doyle, CSC Community Mediation Institute (CMI), as well as immediate needs for education in the categories of capital punishment and immigration legislation - all these needs will be given attention.

One need that has always been addressed on a positive note by the supporters of peace and justice in NEPA is financial assistance. And so, we ask you today, in these times of economic insecurity that affect us all, to make a contribution to the Peace and Justice Center as we embark on a new program year in the Fall. Please do what you are able to do in keeping alive the cause of Peace and Justice in our midst. We hope that your generosity will be a reflection on the good work that has gone before us and a beacon for a future that continues to recognize the needs in our community.



Thank you for your help!

Respectfully,



Patrick J. McCormick Frances R. McCormick



63 N FRANKLIN ST / WILKES-BARRE PA 18701-1317

PLEASE, CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PEACE CENTER

Name(s) _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution. \$250 \$100 \$75 \$35 Other \$ _____

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